

NIC 00027-84

The Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council



MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH : Chairman, National Intelligence Council *6*

FROM : Julian C. Nall
National Intelligence Officer for Science and Technology

SUBJECT : Comments by Dick DeLauer on Briefing of NIE 11-12

1. Last week I participated in a briefing of NIE 11-12 for Dick DeLauer by . Others present were Don Latham, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for C³I, Paul Berenson, Special Assistant to DeLauer, and an OSWR analyst on assignment to OUSDR&E.

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2. I believe that DeLauer had at least scanned Volume I, Summary and Key Judgments, and had read notes prepared for him by Paul Berenson. Some of DeLauer's comments:

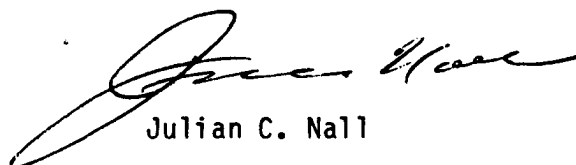
- He believes that the technologies are aggregated in lumps that are too large. He noted that the table in the Estimate stated that the Soviets and US were approximately equal in radar technology. He immediately said that such an assessment would mean that Congress would simply deny the needed R&D funding even though the Soviets are ahead in areas such as millimeter waves. He believes that technology such as radar should be broken into sub-areas in the table and briefing charts. Strengths and weaknesses should be emphasized and we should not bother with all the "crap" in between. It was pointed out that information about millimeter waves is in the body of the report, but DeLauer's concern is that often only the summary and tables are read.
- He believes that in addition to assessing the level of current and projected technology and the impact, alternatives which the Soviets might use should be addressed. For example, he asks "How can the Soviets do what they do without advanced computers? It may be they have alternatives which their high level of expertise in mathematics may allow."

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- DeLauer and Latham question the statement that the Soviets would be committed to remain behind if they continue to rely on obtaining Western technology. They believe the Soviets can get the technology and incorporate it into systems much more rapidly than the West and they can do it in innovative ways.
- DeLauer said that an area of importance to him was any Soviet activity in ship defense using high energy lasers.
- Latham expressed his belief that the Soviets can effectively use sophisticated technology and will incorporate it in a system if needed but only if needed, whereas the West is inclined to include such technologies regardless of actual need.
- DeLauer emphasized the importance he attaches to HUMINT as the only way of obtaining information about early R&D. He said we should "hit it hard now."

4. After DeLauer left the room, Berenson said that he will draft a memorandum for DeLauer to send to the DCI with comments on the estimate. He offered me the opportunity to contribute to the draft and I accepted.

5. Overall, DeLauer's interest in the Estimate is clearly very high and he believes it is a "must" document. He offered to work closely with us in planning for the follow on to this Estimate.



Julian C. Nall

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